



Health Services
LOS ANGELES COUNTY

September 16, 2008

**Los Angeles County
Board of Supervisors**

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The Honorable Board of Supervisors
County of Los Angeles
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Supervisors:

**APPROVAL OF AGREEMENT WITH EL CAMINO COLLEGE-COMPTON
COMMUNITY EDUCATION CENTER FOR MENTORING AND TUTORING
PROGRAM FOR NURSING STUDENTS
(SUPERVISORAL DISTRICT 2)
(3 VOTES)**

John F. Schunhoff, Ph.D.
Interim Director

Robert G. Splawn, M.D.
Interim Chief Medical Officer

SUBJECT

Request approval of Agreement with El Camino College-Compton Community Education Center for Mentoring and Tutoring Program.

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOUR BOARD:

Approve and instruct the Interim Director of Health Services, or his designee, to execute an Agreement with El Camino College-Compton Community Educational Center (ECCCCEC) for the Department of Health Services (DHS) Mentoring and Tutoring Program for nursing students, effective upon Board approval through June 30, 2010, for a total net County cost of \$240,000.

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION

In approving the recommended action, DHS will continue its efforts to address nursing shortages in the County system by providing a mentoring and tutoring program for nursing students enrolled at ECCCCEC. The program provides for additional training in an academic and clinical setting and prepares students to pass the National Council Licensure Exam for Registered Nurses (NCLEX-RN) which is necessary when successful graduates of ECCCCEC apply for entry level Registered Nurse (RN) I positions at DHS facilities.

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IMPLEMENTATION OF STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS

The recommended action supports Goal I, Service Excellence and Goal 7, Health and Mental Health of the County's Strategic Plan.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

The total maximum County obligation is \$240,000, (\$120,000 for Fiscal Year (FY) 2008-09 and \$120,000 for FY 2009-10).

Funding is included in the FY 2008-09 Health Services Administration's Adopted Budget and will be requested in future fiscal years.

FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

The nation continues to experience a shortage of qualified nurses. The number of available RNs in the workforce consistently falls below the number of nurses needed to adequately staff health care facilities throughout the United States. In California, State law mandates that health care facilities meet certain RN to patient staffing ratios, making the supply and availability of RNs even more problematic.

DHS continues to explore various resources to address the immediate needs of the County. A long term, but necessary solution, is to support local registered nursing schools in an effort to increase the number of available RN candidates in the workforce. Tutoring and mentoring programs established to assist students enrolled in qualified RN programs at local colleges have proven to be a positive influence in increasing the number of RN candidates. These colleges have no funds to support the cost of mentoring and tutoring programs for their students.

The success rate of these programs has generally resulted in an increase in hiring of RNs for DHS facilities, not including the months of November and December when recruitment is usually low due to the holiday schedules.

The County was required under the amended Conciliation Agreement, effective September 23, 1998, between the County and the Federal Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, to establish programs to assist students in underrepresented groups enrolled in studies associated with allied health fields at selected schools, colleges, and universities. On October 19, 1999, the Board approved an Agreement with East Los Angeles College (ELAC).

On March 5, 2002, in an effort to address the overall nursing shortages in the County system, the Board instructed DHS to establish a tutoring and mentoring program similar to the ELAC Training Program in the First Supervisorial District. On July 29,

2003 the Board approved two new agreements with Glendale Community College and Los Angeles Valley College.

From FY 2006-07 to FY 2007-08, there was a 10 percent increase in the number of registered nurses, interim permittees, student nurses, student nurse workers and senior student nurse workers, hired from the tutoring and mentoring recruitment schools, including LA County College of Nursing and Allied Health.

The DHS Office of Nursing Affairs (ONA) is in the process of researching the Community College/Nursing Schools and is exploring the addition of another tutoring and mentoring program to ensure such programs exist in all Supervisorial Districts.

In an effort to expand the tutoring and mentoring program throughout the County, ONA has requested that DHS enter into an Agreement with ECCCCEC.

The Agreement may be terminated by either party with the provision of 30 days prior written notice.

County Counsel has reviewed and approved Exhibit I as to form.

CONTRACTING PROCESS

Advertising on the County's On-Line Web Site as an open contracting opportunity is not applicable. ONA contacted several schools with the lowest NCLEX rate scores to offer the tutoring and mentoring program for their students. As a result of the research, two community colleges responded, El Camino College and Compton Community College. Compton College had recently lost their nursing license in August 2005, and had plans to keep their nursing school open while operating under the license of El Camino College. ONA was informed of their new partnership. At this time the nursing schools have merged under ECCCCEC, working under one license. DHS made the decision to contract with ECCCCEC based on their response, locality and Departmental needs.

IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)


DHS has worked with ECCCCEC to structure a tutoring and mentoring program that meets the needs of the college by providing financial assistance. By providing this assistance, it is expected that qualified nursing staff will be developed for consideration of employment at County facilities.

The Honorable Board of Supervisors
September 16, 2008
Page 4

CONCLUSION

When approved, this Department requires three signed copies of the Board's action.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'JFS', followed by a series of horizontal wavy lines.

John F. Schunhoff, Ph.D
Interim Director

JFS:ev

Attachments

c: Chief Executive Office
County Counsel
Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors
Director of Personnel